

REMARKS

This paper is in response to the Office Action mailed August 25, 2003. Claims 1-26 are pending, with claims 1-13, 25 and 26 being withdrawn from consideration. Claims 14-24 were addressed in the Office Action.

Claims 14-24 were provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 11-21 of co-pending application no. 09/832,715. The claims of application no. 09/832,715 were amended in a paper filed December 10, 2003. Applicants believe that the previous amendments to application no. 09/832,715 render this rejection moot, and request that it be withdrawn.

Applicants request that the Forms 1449 previously submitted be returned with the references listed being initialed as considered.

SUMMARY

In consideration of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Applicants bring to the Examiner's attention continuation-in-part application claiming priority to this application: application no. 10/122,647 filed April 10, 2002, with Examiner Jason M. Greene of art unit 1724.

Respectfully submitted,

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Listing of Claims from parent application 09/832,715, as amended on December 10, 2003:

1. (Currently Amended) [[A]] In combination a filter assembly and an air moving device,
the filter assembly comprising:
 - (a) a housing having an inlet and an outlet, the inlet being configured to receive dirty air into the filter assembly, and the outlet being configured to deliver clean air from the filter assembly;
 - (b) a filter element within said housing, the filter element comprising a particulate filter portion constructed and arranged to remove particulate contaminants from the dirty air; ~~and~~
 - (c) a sound suppression element within said housing, said suppression element constructed and arranged to provide ~~broadband~~ sound attenuation of at least 6 dB at one meter for ~~the sound~~ frequencies between 160 to 1100 hertz passing through the filter assembly; and,
 - (d) the air moving device in fluid communication with said filter assembly.
2. (Original) The filter assembly according to claim 1, the filter element further comprising a chemical filter portion arranged to remove chemical contaminants from the dirty air.
3. (Original) The filter assembly according to claim 2, wherein said chemical filter portion comprises an adsorbent material.
4. (Original) The filter assembly according to claim 1, wherein said particulate filter portion is configured to provide straight-through flow.
5. (Currently Amended) The filter assembly according to claim 1, wherein said filter element is comprises a cylindrical portion.

6. (Currently Amended) The filter assembly according to claim 1, wherein the filter element is comprises an obround portion.
7. (Original) The filter assembly according to claim 1, wherein said sound suppression element comprises a resonator.
8. (Original) The filter assembly according to claim 1, wherein said sound suppression element is at least partially defined by said housing.
9. (Original) The filter assembly according to claim 1, wherein said sound suppression element is constructed and arranged to attenuate the sound passing through the filter assembly by at least 10 dB.
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Currently Amended) A system for producing power, the system comprising:
 - (a) a fuel cell assembly having an oxidant intake port and a fuel intake port, and configured to produce electrical power from an oxidant and a fuel entering the oxidant port and the fuel intake port, respectively;
 - (b) a filter assembly comprising:
 - (i) a housing having an inlet configured to receive a dirty atmospheric air flowstream, and an outlet connected in fluid communication with the oxidant intake port;
 - (ii) a filter element within the housing arranged and configured to intercept the air flowstream and to deliver clean air to the outlet, the filter element comprising a particulate filter portion constructed and arranged to remove particulate contaminants from the air flowstream; and
 - (c) a sound suppression element within said housing, said sound suppression element constructed ~~construction~~ and arranged to provide ~~broadband~~ sound attenuation of

at least 6 dB at one meter for sound frequencies between 160 to 1100 hertz
passing through the filter assembly.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Original) The system according to claim 11, wherein said sound suppression element is constructed and arranged to attenuate the sound by at least 10 dB.

14. (Original) The system according to claim 11, said filter assembly further comprising a chemical filter portion arranged to remove chemical contaminants from the airflow stream.

15. (Original) The system according to claim 14, wherein the chemical filter portion comprises an adsorbent material.

16. (Original) The system according to claim 15, wherein the adsorbent material is selected from the group consisting of activated carbon, impregnated carbon, activated carbon fibers, ion-exchange resin, ion-exchange fibers, alumina, activated alumina, molecular sieves, and silica.

17. (Original) The system according to claim 16, wherein the adsorbent material has a basic surface and is constructed and arranged to remove an acidic contaminant, the acidic contaminant being at least one of sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides, hydrogen sulfide, hydrogen chloride, and volatile organic acids and nonvolatile organic acids.

18. (Original) The system according to claim 16, wherein the adsorbent material has an acidic surface and is constructed and arranged to remove a basic contaminant, the basic contaminant being at least one of ammonia, amines, amides, sodium hydroxides, lithium hydroxides, potassium hydroxides, volatile organic bases and nonvolatile organic bases.

19. (Original) The system according to claim 11, wherein said particulate filter portion is configured to provide straight-through flow.

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20. (Original) The system according to claim 11, further comprising an air compressor.

21. (Original) The system according to claim 20, wherein the air compressor is a twin screw compressor.